

Practices That Work!

Reason for starting the innovative practice

Twenty years ago, the town of Maitum in Sarangani Province had one of the richest ecosystems in Mindanao. However, today, these riches are almost gone. About 60% of the municipality's forest are already deforested. Likewise, unabated deforestation, erosion, destructive fishing techniques, and harmful run-off from agricultural land have taken its toll on the once unspoiled environment of Maitum. To increase forest cover, sustain upland and lowland food production, assure abundant potable water supply, and protect lives and investments, the local government formulated and implemented a Forest Land Use Plan. The Plan will guide the Municipality how to allocate its limited resources to achieve the best impact in terms of protecting its forests and utilizing its benefits.

Role of Implementing Organization

Under the Forest Land Use Plan or FLUP, the DENR, the LGU Maitum and line agencies of the national government will jointly plant proactive programs to encourage upland forest occupants to practice land management practices. It will be used to help monitor forestland allocation and management.

How it works

The Maitum FLUP has five components: watershed, open access forestland, land allocation scheme, settlements, and alienable and disposal land. Watershed prioritization was based on the existing forest cover, accessibility to settlements and area served by the watershed, wide agricultural areas and with most number of infrastructure and investments. Under the FLUP Plan, the DENR, the LGU Maitum and line agencies of the national government will jointly monitor forestland allocation and management. The plan will also enable the LGU to have better access to forestland information, technologies and management options. The people of Maitum, on the other hand, will be given the opportunity to actively participate in proper forest management.

How barriers/obstacles were overcome

- Financial – maximize what is set aside; Coordinate, request technical and Financial from NGOs such as resource organizations; Coordinate with the Province

General Information

Innovative Practice Name

Formulating and Implementing a Forest Land Use Plan

Location

Maitum, Sarangani Province

Date Started

1997

Date Completed

March 18, 1999

Implementing Office Address/Tel.

Municipal Hall
Maitum, Sarangani Province
(082)552-2085

Contact Person/Address/Tel.

Hon. George Yabes
Municipal Mayor
Maitum, Sarangani Province
(082) 552-2085

Key Consultants/Address/Tel./E-mail

Rodolfo Aragon
Door#4 Barrera Apt., Labangon, Cebu City
rudya@cebu.weblinq.com
Tel. (032)262-1679
Cel. (0912)821-5013

Ephraim Agcaoili
32 Block II Jearamec Subd., Lagao, General Santos
Cel. (0917)714-3940

Charlie Patrick Dugan
B21L22 Rosalina Vill. III, Phase 3 (Makar)
Baliok, Talomo Dist., Davao City
Cel. (0917)417-9058

- Technical – Coordination and integration with other similar project activities like Barangay Development planning and FLUP community mapping was jointly undertaken using BDP resources such as materials and manpower
- Manpower - Key informants (selected community people) were identified to give first hand information. These information are indicated in the maps generated from the conduct of sitio-mapping
- Community acceptance – Conduct IEC on Forest Management, the FLUP as a tool and the CBFM as the strategy

Details of benefits and results

- Areas for production and protection have been identified
- Priority areas for watershed management have been pinpointed
- Community awareness and participation in solving environmental problems have been put in place
- Linkages between LGUs, NGOs, NGAs and POs have been adequately strengthened
- The project has already initiated the training in nursery network development of the first batch of farmer-beneficiaries. More than 4,000 rubber budwoods have been distributed to 26 trained farmers for seedling production.
- The municipal government also commenced the issuance of ISF tenure certificates to farmer beneficiaries who are contracted to initiate agroforestry production and protection.
- The Maitum citizens who stand to benefit from the FLUP are being encouraged to organize themselves into cooperatives so they could qualify to implement any one of the forest



The Practices That Work! series is a publication of the Governance and Local Democracy (GOLD) Project made possible through support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under the terms of the GOLD Project Contract No. 492-0471-C-00-5089-00. The opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID.